

## 'Mosque of The Believers' Opens at Camp Cooke

By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde

122nd MPAD

CAMP COOKE- In an effort to enhance the quality of life for Coalition forces, contractors and other Muslims who have access to Camp Cooke, the 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and 39th BCT, in partnership with local Iraqi citizens, opened the newly renovated 'Masjid Al-Mu'Mineen' or 'Mosque of The Believers' June 17.

"The mosque is the central focus of the Arab community," said Maj. Rashid Muhammad, 4BCT's brigade chaplain. "It is where Muslims go to socialize, enhance their spiritual growth and education and celebrate Ramadan, among other things."

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By Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

**Maj. Rashid Muhammad, brigade chaplain for the 4th Brigade Combat Team, presides over the first prayer session at the opening ceremony of the 'Masjid Al-Mu'Mineen' or 'Mosque of The Believers' at Camp Cooke June 17.**

## 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers Offer Community Assistance

By 2nd Lt. Greg Shipper

2-7 Cavalry Public Affairs

AL MUSHADA, Iraq- A free medical clinic was offered May 29 to residents of Al Mushada to reward their support of Coalition forces. Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 39th Brigade Combat Team, gave free medical care and handed out supplies to local residents.

For the town of Al Mushada, the cooperation they have provided was returned to them in the form of a medical capability exercise (MEDCAP).

The MEDCAP is a free clinic for those who had an ailment or wanted to see a doctor.

Several doctors and physician assistants were on hand to provide medical treatment.

In addition to the MED-

CAP, Soldiers from Company D, 309th Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) Battalion, in cooperation with Soldiers of 2-

7 Cav, handed out footballs, t-shirts, and school supplies to the children of the town. The ICDC troops provided security at the MEDCAP location so that the townspeople could see, up close, their skills and professionalism.

Team Five from the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion also handed out supplies. Introducing the footballs to the children, the civil affairs team members showed the children the proper way of throwing the balls and how to correctly catch them.

Among the school supplies were writing paper, pens, pencils, and colored highlighters. By providing the much-needed

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By 2nd Lt. Greg Shipper, 2-7 Cavalry Public Affairs

**1st Lt. Michelle Lowery provides care to local villagers during the medical capability exercise offered to Al Mushada residents.**



# Mosque Provides Special Place of Worship for Muslims

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The first remodeled mosque on a U.S. military forward operating base, the project took three months and over \$50,000 to complete.

"We replaced everything," said Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Sanders, the command sergeant major of 4BCT. "We put in all new light fixtures, carpeting and curtains. The garden was a mess, so we replaced the sod and planted bushes. We also repaired all the plumbing and cleaned all the tile work."

Acting as translator for the

local Iraqi laborers working on the renovation was Pfc. Bashar Aburubia, a flight operations specialist with 2nd Battalion, 227th Regiment, 4BCT.

"I worked with them for seven days, 16 hours a day," Aburubia said. "I emphasized the importance of this project to them. I wanted to motivate them to do their best work."

Born in Libya, Aburubia has been a naturalized U.S. citizen since the age of 12 and calls Houston, Texas home.

"I am a practicing Muslim in my beliefs," he said. "I am

very happy to be from the U.S. It is an excellent home for a Muslim—full of opportunity."

Sgt. Mohammad Adam, non-commissioned officer in charge of the promotions section, 138th Personnel Services Battalion, 4BCT, was assigned the task of calling the faithful to prayer during the ceremony.

"Before the mosque was finished, we were sharing the chapel," said Adam, a native of Ghana, West Africa. "Although we did not mind that, it is nice to have our own place of worship."

The first Muslim chaplain in the Army and resident Imam, Muhammad presided over the historical prayer session.

"Being an Imam is a whole life experience," said the Buffalo, N.Y. native. "It is everything I believe."

Muhammad studied for 31 years to become an Imam. Born into the Baptist faith, he practiced this faith dutifully until he heeded the words of the Prophet.

"Allah called me to Islam," the chaplain said.

The opening ceremony of the mosque held particular significance for Pfc. William Stanley, a legal specialist with Headquarters Company, 4BCT. He assisted with the day's preparation.



**The 4th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) and the 39th BCT, in partnership with local Iraqi citizens, opened the first mosque on a U.S. military forward operating base in Iraq. The renovation of the mosque cost \$50,000.**

"The most important aspect for people to see is that we are not only taking care of their infrastructure, we are also helping with the cultural aspect of their lives," said the 26-year-old Phoenix, Az. native. "This is a great opportunity to show them that we are aware of [Iraqi] culture and their religion and the importance it plays. This project is one of many quality of life projects the Army has done here. People are seeing the Army give back to the Iraqi community."



Photos by Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

**Ahmed Flaahi, an Iraqi Army member, gives a recitation from the Koran during the opening ceremony of the 'Masjid Al-Mu'Mineen' or 'Mosque of The Believers' June 17 at Camp Cooke.**

## Friday

High: 109  
Low: 82



## Saturday

High: 111  
Low: 83



## Sunday

High: 112  
Low: 83



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

## Iraqi Word of the Day

medicine

Du-wa

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## BG Hammond Vows 1st Cav. Div. Will Stay the Course

► From Killeen Daily Herald

Embracing an ever-changing mission, the leaders of the 1st Cavalry Division vowed this week to stay the course and rebuild the capital city of a nation they are calling home for a year.

The division owes it to the troops it has lost, said Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Hammond, the 1st Cavalry's deputy commander for support.

It's been a tough ride for the Fort Hood troops and their Guard and reserve units since they began their deployment to Baghdad in March.

Just weeks into the Iraq mission, the First Team troops found themselves in the midst of an uprising, their bloodiest day coming April 4, when seven Soldiers from two battalions were killed in a pair of ambushes that also wounded another 49 troops. Another fatal attack followed the next day.

It was a stunning turn of events for the division and its commander, Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli, who had been preparing for a year of rebuilding efforts.

"We weren't expecting



what happened on 5 April," said Hammond via telephone from Baghdad on Tuesday.

Sounding tired but determined, Hammond said he was confident the 1st Cavalry's troops have turned the tide and will prevail in a city of 6 million to 7 million who appear on camera to be hostile toward the American presence.

The 1st Cavalry quickly took back the streets in April, Hammond said. And now, a little more than two months after its arrival in Iraq and mere weeks from the planned June 30 handover of sovereignty to the Iraqi, he said the division is ready to refocus on its rebuilding efforts to the tune of \$445 million in the next 90 days.

The funds will target areas Chiarelli believes have been the source of the unrest, the city's fractured social services and neglected infrastructure such as sewage, water, electricity particularly in Baghdad's Al-Rashid and Sadr City slums.

"It's a tough task. I can't imagine a time in history where we were going to have a tougher challenge," Hammond said.

"I trust this division's leaders. I trust its Soldiers," Hammond said. "I think we have the most common-sense leader. Major General Chiarelli is the most common-sense guy I know."

Chiarelli's goal is to employ Iraqis, said Hammond, noting working residents have less free time to dwell on their discontent and take up arms against the troops.

Nevertheless, Hammond said the division is aware its civil mission is not in the militants' interests and security will be critical to the division's success.

"Combat operations will continue as long as the enemy exercises his vote," said Hammond, using a favored military term.

Bracing for an upsurge in the eight-week-old violence as the handover approaches, Hammond said the division's heavily fortified camps are offering protection for the troops.

## Today in Cav

### History

June 18

1861 - "G" Battery, 5th Regiment of Artillery, predecessor unit of the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense, was constituted in the Regular Army.

1943 - The first echelon of the 1st Cavalry Division arrived in Brisbane, Australia.

1951 - A regrouping on Line Wyoming was ordered which moved the Division slightly east, taking in addition to previous frontage a sector held by elements of the American 3rd Infantry Division.

## Today in History

June 18

► From [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com)

1865 Napoleon Bonaparte defeated at Waterloo in Belgium  
1778 15,000 British troops abandon Philadelphia, the former U.S. capital  
1812 Second Anglo-American War (the War of 1812) begins  
1923 The first Checker cab produced  
1940 Hitler and Mussolini meet in Munich  
1942 Recording artist Paul McCartney is born  
1965 Strategic Air Command (SAC) B-52s are used for the first time in South Vietnam  
1983 First American woman in space, Dr. Sally Ride on board the space shuttle Challenger

## Medical, School Supplies A Welcome Gift to Community

Continued from Page 1  
school supplies, the children were able to complete many of the lessons their teachers have given them. In the past they could not finish lessons due to shortages.

After two hours of smiles, band-aids and hand-shaking, the ICDC and Soldiers of 2-7 Cav cleaned up, waved goodbye and returned to Camp Cooke.



By 2nd Lt. Greg Shipper, 2-7 Cavalry Public Affairs  
**Residents of Al Mushada crowd around a military medical vehicle during the medical capability exercise.**



## Prince Treats Hometown Fans to Entertainment, Free CD

► From *StarTribune*

ST. PAUL, Minn.- Don't call it a comeback. Call it a homecoming.

Prince's much-heralded Musicology Tour finally came to the singer's home turf Wednesday, when he played the first of three nearly sold-out concerts at St. Paul's Xcel Energy Center.

The fact that the tour began in April in Los Angeles, where Prince has been living part time (as well as in Toronto), didn't slow the momentum. Fans from all over the world came to the Twin Cities for the concerts because it's his home.

"The music and his mood always seem better in

Minnesota," said Fred Heller, 30, of Zurich, Switzerland, who came to the singer's shows at Paisley Park in 2002.

The biggest cheer early in the show came when Prince, dressed in a purple suit with purposefully uneven hemlines, hollered, "Minnesota!"

Many Minnesotans had lost touch with Prince in the past decade, when he temporarily changed his name to an unpronounceable symbol and made fewer commercial albums. But they were reminded of his talent by widespread media exposure this year and his induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in March.

Prince opened the concert

with the title track of his new CD, "Musicology," copies of which were handed out to each concertgoer. But Prince did play many of his best-known 1980s songs, too, including "Let's Go Crazy" and "When Doves Cry." He claims that this is the last time he will perform the hits on tour.

Many children were on hand Wednesday - a sign of the times for Prince, 46, who has become a Jehovah's Witness and promises to be more family-friendly.

Prince himself added to the hometown momentum with parties before and after his concert at his Paisley Park studios in Chanhassen, where he still has a home.



StarTribune

**Prince on Wednesday played the first of three nearly sold-out concerts at St. Paul's Xcel Energy Center.**



hallmark.com

**Father's Day is  
Sunday, June 20**

**The MCI Phone  
Center is open  
June 17-24 to call  
your dad (for free!)**



**MLB**



**INTERLEAGUE PLAY**

Minnesota 6  
Montreal 4

Seattle 6  
Milwaukee 3

Cincinnati 4  
Texas 3

Kansas City 10  
Atlanta 4

Philadelphia 6  
Detroit 2

Boston 11  
Colorado 0

San Francisco 8  
Toronto 5

Anaheim 5  
Pittsburgh 2

Florida 2  
Chicago White Sox 1

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

Chicago Cubs 5  
Houston 4

### TV GUIDE

	<b>AFN ATLANTIC</b>	<b>AFN PACIFIC</b>	<b>AFN Sports</b>	<b>AFN Spectrum</b>
<b>6 p.m.</b>	Ozzy & Drix/ As Told By Ginger	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	Golf - 104th U.S. Open Championship: Second Round	The X-Files
<b>7 p.m.</b>	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:30 p.m.	(continuous cover- age)	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
<b>8 p.m.</b>	ESPNNews/ Headline News	<i>Father of the Bride Part II</i>		The Simpsons/ Happy Days
<b>9 p.m.</b>	The Simpsons/ Malcolm in the Middle			The Dead Zone
<b>10 p.m.</b>	The Apprentice	<i>The Truman Show</i>		Boston Public